

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 and 14 are pending in this application, claims 6-13 and 15-25 being withdrawn. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 are amended. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in the specification, for example, on page 106, line 25 - page 107, line 102. Claims 2 and 3 are amended for clarity. No new matter is added.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are amended responsive to the rejection. Applicant thus requests withdrawal of the rejection.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-5 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Anderson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,999,637; hereinafter "Anderson") in view of Morris et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,097,389; hereinafter "Morris") and further in view of Wolff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,833,848; hereinafter "Wolff"). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

None of the above-applied references teaches, or renders obvious, every claimed feature of independent claim 1. None of the above-applied references teaches, "an electric bulletin board system that enables questions and answers among users therein," as recited in independent claim 1 (emphasis added).

The Office Action asserts that Fig. 1 of Anderson teaches an alleged electric bulletin board (Office Action, page 4). However, Anderson merely teaches a printed photo album or a web photo album that a user can access via a website, or a CD-ROM containing a photo album (see Anderson col. 4, lines 8-15). Anderson is silent regarding an electric bulletin board system that enables questions and answers among users therein. Therefore, Anderson does not teach, or render obvious, all of the claimed features of independent claim 1.

Further, Morris and Wolff do not remedy the above-described deficiencies of Anderson. Morris teaches various information which may be maintained in a picture database

including a title or caption information, a date that a picture was taken, a location where the picture was taken, who was in a picture, the photographer of the picture and comments about the picture (see Morris col. 10, lines 26-35). The text entered in Morris is later used for information regarding a picture. Wolff teaches a system that combines capabilities for storing, authoring and viewing various forms of digital photographs (see col. 1, lines 40-48 of Wolff). In other words, Morris and Wolff merely teach presenting, storing and viewing collections of digital media. Neither Wolff nor Morris teaches an electric bulletin board system that enables questions and answers among users therein.

Because none of the above-applied references teaches, or renders obvious, "an electric bulletin board system that enables questions and answers among users therein," the above-applied references also fail to teach or render obvious, "a step of judging whether or not an image provided for the electric album service is permitted to be browsed by a third party when the image is demanded to be carried in the bulletin board with the question by the user" and "a step of permitting to carry the image in the bulletin board when the image is permitted to be browsed by the third party" and "a step of banning from carrying the image in the bulletin board when the image is not permitted to be browsed by the third party."

Therefore, for at least these reasons, independent claim 1 is patentable over the above-applied references. Claims 2-5 and 14 depend from independent claims 1. Thus, claims 2-5 and 14 are also patentable over the applied references for at least their dependency on independent claims 1, as well as for the additional features they recite.

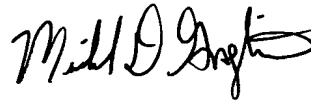
Thus, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

Further, Applicant respectfully requests rejoinder and allowance of withdrawn claims 6-13 and 15-25.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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MAC:MDG/add

Attachment:
Petition for Extension of Time

Date: April 27, 2009

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